

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to select one of a plurality variable number of items, the method employing a device having a display area (406) and, separately from the display area, a data input means (400) which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range,

the method including:

displaying within the display area (406) a number of regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405) equal to the number of items;

defining within the range (400) a number of sections equal to the number of items, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of said regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405) of the display area, each section corresponding to a respective region,

whereby the user can select one of said items by selecting a respective one of said sections;

~~Characterized in that the data input means is rotatable circumferentially by the user, the data input means registering the degree of rotation independently of said selection with in the range.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to select one of a plurality variable number of items, the method employing a device having a display area and, separately from the display area, a data input means which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range,

the method including at least once performing the steps of:

(a) displaying within the display area a number of regions, each region corresponding to a respective item,

- (b) defining a plurality of subsets of said regions;
- (c) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of subsets, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said subsets by selecting the respective one of said sections;
- (d) optionally, at least one step of:
 - (i) defining a plurality of subsets of said selected subset of regions; and
 - (ii) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of subsets, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said subsets by selecting the respective one of said sections; and
- (e) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of ~~items~~ terms in the ~~previously selected subset~~ said selected one of the respective subsets of regions, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective regions representing the items, whereby the user can select one of said items by selecting the respective one of said sections;

~~wherein the data input means is rotatable circumferentially by the user, the data input means registering the degree of rotation independently of said selection with in the range.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405) are provided along a path corresponding to the circumferential direction of the range, the path within the display area (406) is independent of the number of regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405), and the step of displaying the regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405) includes partitioning the path into a number of elements corresponding to the number of regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405) and displaying a region in each path element.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, in which for each possible number of regions (401, 402, 403, 404, 405) up to a maximum, there is a predefined arrangement of that number of regions.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 or claim 2, in which the regions ~~(401, 402, 403, 404, 405)~~ have respective centres which are not on a straight line.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 or claim 2, in which the range is a range of circumferential locations within a loop-shaped contact sensitive area.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, in which the contact sensitive area encircles the display area ~~(406)~~.
8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~, in which the data input means ~~(400)~~ has a rest plane, is cantable out of the rest plane, and is sensitive to the direction in which it is canted, said range being a range of directions in which the data input means ~~(400)~~ can be canted, the user making said selection by contacting the device to cant the data input means ~~(400)~~ in a selected direction.
9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 or claim 2, in which the sections collectively cover the whole of the contact sensitive area, so that defining the sections is equivalent to partitioning the entire area.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 or claim 2, in which the user can (i) vary the selection of the item, information being displayed in relation to the item corresponding to the present selection, and (ii) by a predetermined action make a definitive selection.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, in which the variation of the selection is made by rotating the data input means.
12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 or claim 2, which is performed repeatedly, on each occasion selecting form items which are logically related to the item selected in the previous step.
13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 or claim 2, in which the logical relationships are of any type or types suitable for defining a hyperspace.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 or claim 2, in which the items are data files, sets of data files or portions of data files.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, in which at least one of the data files are stored in a location remote from the device but accessible to the device.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14 ~~or claim 15~~ in which, upon selecting a data file, the user is presented with at least ~~some~~ one information about that data file.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claims 14 ~~to 16~~ in which, upon selecting a data file, the user can open the selected data file.

18. (Currently Amended) A device for allowing a user to select one of a plurality variable number of items, the device having:

a display area (406), for displaying a number of regions (~~401, 402, 403, 404, 405~~) equal to the number of items;

data input means (~~400~~), separate from said display area (~~406~~), which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range; and

a processor for (i) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of items, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of said regions of the display area and each section corresponding to a respective region, and (ii) upon a user selecting a respective one of the sections, determining the corresponding item;

~~characterized in that the data input means (400) is circumferentially rotatable, whereby the user can enter data into the data input means by rotating the data input means (400) independently of said selection within the range.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A device for allowing a user to select one of a plurality variable number of items, the device having:

a display area for displaying a number of regions equal to the number of items;

a data input means which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range; and

a processor for

- (a) defining a plurality of subsets of said regions;
- (b) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of subsets, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said subsets by selecting the respective one of said sections;
- (c) optionally, at least one step of:
 - (i) defining a plurality of subsets of said selected subset of regions; and
 - (ii) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of subsets, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said subsets by selecting the respective one of said sections; and
- (d) defining within the range a number of sections equal to the number of items in the previously selected subset, the arrangement of said sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective regions representing the items, whereby the user can select one of said items by selecting the respective one of said sections;

~~the data input means being circumferentially rotatable, whereby the user can enter data into the data input means by rotating the data input means independently of said selection within the range.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, in which the data input means (400) is not adapted to display information.

21. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, in which the range is a range of circumferential locations within a loop-shaped contact-sensitive area (400).

22. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 21, in which the contact sensitive area encircles the display (406).

23. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any of claim 21, or claim 22~~ in which the data input means (400) has a rest plane, is cantable out of the rest plane, and is sensitive to the direction in which it is canted, said range being a range of directions in which the data input means (400) can be canted, whereby the user can make the selection within the range by contacting the data input means to cant the data input means (400) in the corresponding direction.
24. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any of claims 18 to 23~~ or claim 19, which is an item of consumer electronics.
25. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any of claims 18 to 24~~ or claim 19, in which the display area (406) is a low resolution screen.
26. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any of claim 26 to 25~~ 18 or claim 19, which is a one-piece unit.
27. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~any of claims 18 to 26~~ 18 or claim 19, which is portable.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product readable by a computer device which causes the computer device to perform a method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~ or claim 2.